

CONTROLLING CHARGES.

116. There was no change in the divisional charges during the year.

117. The various divisions were held by officers as follows :—

| No. | Division. | Name of Officer. | Rank. | Designation. | Period of holding charge. | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | From | To |
| 1 | East Thána | C. Greathed | Deputy Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade. | Divisional Forest Officer. | 1st July 1893 | 30th June 1894. |
| 2 | West Thána | G. P. Millett | Do. do. 4th Grade. | Do. | Do. | 10th April 1894. |
| | | T. B. Fry | Do. do. 2nd Grade. | Do. | 11th April 1894 | 9th May 1894. |
| | | G. P. Millett | Do. do. 4th Grade. | Do. | 10th May 1894 | 30th June 1894. |
| 3 | Surat | W. A. Wallinger | Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. | Do. | 1st July 1893 | Do. |
| 4 | Panch Mahals. | W. F. D. Fisher | Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. | Do. | Do. | 4th September 1893. |
| | | A. N. Master | Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade. | Do. | 5th September 1893 | 6th October 1893. |
| | | W. F. D. Fisher | Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. | Do. | 6th October 1893 | 12th February 1894. |
| | | F. R. Dasli | Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade. | Do. | 13th February 1894 | 28th February 1894. |
| | | A. N. Master | Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade. | Do. | 1st March 1894 | 12th April 1894. |
| | | W. F. D. Fisher | Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. | Do. | 13th April 1894 | 30th June 1894. |
| 5 | Working Plans. | T. B. Fry | Deputy Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. | Do. | 1st July 1893 | 4th August 1893. |
| | | G. P. Millett | Do. do. 4th Grade. | Do. | 5th August 1893 | 4th November 1893. |
| | | T. B. Fry | Do. do. 2nd Grade. | Do. | 5th November 1893. | 9th May 1894. |
| | | G. P. Millett | Do. do. 4th Grade. | Do. | 10th May 1894 | 30th June 1894. |

118. The following officers held charge of the sub-divisions during the year :—

| No. | Division. | Name of Officer. | Rank. | Designation. | Period of holding Charge. | |
|-----|------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | From | To |
| 1 | East Thána | A. N. Master | Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade. | Shahápur Sub-Division Forest Officer. | 1st July 1893 | 2nd September 1893. |
| | | K. B. Phadke | Do. do. | Do. | 3rd September 1893. | 8th October 1893. |
| | | A. N. Master | Do. do. | Do. | 9th October 1893 | 28th February 1894. |
| | | C. Greathed | Deputy Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade. | Do. | 27th February 1894. | 16th April 1894. |
| | | A. N. Master | Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade. | Do. | 17th April 1894 | 30th June 1894. |
| | | K. B. Phadke | Do. do. | Kalyán Sub-Division Forest Officer. | 1st July 1893 | 8th May 1894. |
| 2 | West Thána | A. N. Master | Do. do. | Do. | 9th May 1894 | 30th June 1894. |
| | | V. D. P. Ribeiro | Do. do. | Bassein Sub-Division Forest Officer. | 1st July 1893 | 16th September 1893. |
| | | Shalkh Hassan Ali Mahomed Ali. | Acting do. do. | Do. | 17th September 1893. | 16th November 1893. |
| | | V. D. P. Ribeiro | Extra do. do. | Do. | 17th November 1893. | 30th June 1894. |
| 3 | Surat | C. G. Dalia | Acting do. do. | Surat Sub-Division Forest Officer. | 1st July 1893 | 16th January 1894. |
| | | W. A. Wallinger | Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade. | Do. | 17th January 1894 | 16th February 1894. |
| | | C. G. Dalia | Acting do. do., 4th Grade. | Do. | 17th February 1894. | 30th June 1894. |

119. Mr. G. R. Duxbury, Assistant Conservator of Forests, a new recruit from Cooper's Hill, was posted to this Circle and was attached to the Circle office from 29th November to 2nd January 1894. From 3rd January he was placed under Mr. Millet, Divisional Forest Officer, West Thána, where he continued up to 4th June 1894, when he was transferred to the Central Circle.

GENERAL REMARKS.

120. Both the Thána Divisional Forest Officers report extensive clearing of the land by occupants put into possession of the junglewood trees growing on their numbers. Mr. Silcock takes a hopeful view in his memorandum sending on the East Thána report which I hope may prove well founded; my own experience leads me to a much less sanguine view.

121. The following are the minutes recorded by the various Collectors in forwarding the forest administration reports of their districts :—

(1) Mr. Silcock's minutes on the West Thána report :

" Mr. Millet has written an interesting report showing a record of good work during the year, but as undersigned is quite new to this district and the forest management therein, he is unable to criticise it in detail.

" 2. It is satisfactory to find that the revenue is steadily increasing, while there is little or no friction with the people. It would be advisable, therefore, to somewhat increase the protective establishment, which is very heavily worked at present. The revenue can well afford a larger expenditure.

" 3. From what undersigned has seen of the magisterial work of this district in connection with forest cases, and he has examined a large number since his arrival, he can hardly agree with Mr. Millett that failures of justice often occur. Mr. Millett naturally views all cases from the prosecutor's point of view, and hence his conclusion. The mere fact too that because certain people were willing to compound offences, it is proof positive that they had committed them is not a safe theory, as many will pay money to get off the inconvenience and expense of a prosecution even though they may be innocent.

" 4. As regards the traffic in dead wood, notice has been issued that it must cease in the Sálsette Táluka from November 1st. The experience gained in this táluka will be useful when considering the advisability of issuing a similar prohibition in other tálukas. At present it might be a dangerous experiment to suddenly stop the trade in the whole district, and to make the prohibition effective would possibly require a considerable increase not only to the protective but also to the magisterial establishments of the district, and it is therefore better to proceed slowly.

" 5. It is unfortunate that extensive fires in Bassein and Máhim should have occurred to spoil the fire record for the year, but deliberate incendiaryism is very hard to prevent or detect; and as it appears very probable that these fires were owing to a revengeful spirit, they may be considered exceptional and that as a rule fire protection has been fairly satisfactory.

" 6. As regards the extension of the grazing rules to the whole of the Division as recommended by the Divisional Forest Officer in paragraph 52 of his report, undersigned sees no reason why this should not be done; but he finds from this office records that for some reason unknown it was arranged that the rules were only to be introduced as an experiment in three tálukas until the revision survey operations were concluded. How the revision survey can practically affect forest areas he does not understand, but he is not prepared to recommend the reversal of previous orders until he has had a more extended knowledge of the district and more especially until he sees how the rules have worked in the Kalyán and Bhiwandi Tálukas of the East Thána Division. The amount of fees collected in West Thána is comparatively trifling and shows a great decrease on the previous year's figures, and in Bassein itself the decrease is equally marked."

(2). Mr. Silcock remarks on the East Thána Divisional Forest Officer's report :—

"It is satisfactory to find that in this Division as well as in West Thána the forest revenue is steadily increasing and it should be possible now to increase the protective staff, as this seems badly wanted judging from the remarks of the Divisional Forest Officer in the 15th and following paras. of his report.

" 2. While it is a matter of regret that there should have been such a wholesale exploitation by the cultivators of their injáli woods it was a natural result of their getting possession of them for the first time, but there is no reason to think that now they have got used to the idea of ownership they will go on with reckless cuttings to their own eventual loss.

" 3. There has been a marked increase in forest offences during the year, which is not a very satisfactory feature, the number of undetected offences being especially large, fires too show a great increase; but it is not understood how the occurrence of fires can have been affected by the Government Resolution on the Forest Report for 1890-91. That the villagers are of themselves prompt in turning out to extinguish fires is somewhat satisfactory; possibly in time they will see it is to their advantage to prevent them altogether.

" 4. As regards grazing, it is not understood whether the whole Division is dealt with or only the tálukas (two it is believed) in which the grazing rules are in force, and it would have been better had this been clearly shown. It would then have been possible to judge of the advisability of introducing the rules into the whole Division. It should not be impossible to carry out the test laid down in Rule XIII when anything wrong is suspected. It is not at all necessary that it should be done continuously and the time spent could not interfere much with the other forest duties while it might result in a considerable gain to Government. At present the revenue derived from "Grazing Fees" is very small for such a large Division.

" 5. Mr. Greatheed has evidently been active in his movements during the year and has exercised considerable supervision over his subordinates. His report is clear and concise, but a little more with advantage might have been said regarding the use or abuse of privileges in forests."

(3). Mr. Lely, Collector of Surat, remarks on the Divisional report of the Forest Officer, Surat :—

"It is satisfactory that gradual progress is being made in demarcating the forests by cairns and to a certain extent by wire fencing. It is due to the rayats that the limits beyond which to go is trespass should be clearly defined.

"There has been a considerable expenditure on roads and buildings in the Dāngs, but scarcely any in the Surat District.

"Prosecutions and compoundings under Section 87 have been, as Mr. Wallinger says, insignificant. The case in which the late Pātel of Tarsada is alleged to have been inadequately punished was not brought at the time to the notice of the District Magistrate. The proceedings have now been sent for. It appears however from the criminal calendar file that the fine inflicted was not Rs. 5 but Rs. 25.

"The chief trouble in this district is the frequency of fires. With the heavy destruction in the Dāngs the undersigned is not specially concerned, but 11,491 acres burnt over in Māndvi out of a total reserved area of 41,164 acres cannot be considered "satisfactory." It is difficult to suggest a remedy that will at once be effective, but this much may at least be said that an essential preliminary is an increase in the protective establishment. This subject has been treated at length in this office No. 3398 of 10th Instant to the address of the Commissioner, Northern Division.

"Another means of stimulating the zeal of subordinates would be to authorize the Divisional Officer to give small rewards for special service. This system is found necessary in the police, and would be still more appropriate to a body of men who have to work hard at a distance from their homes under the depressing influences of isolation and bad climate. The personal recognition involved in a present of a rupee or two for some special merit would often encourage a man as much as a promotion which is not always possible. It would probably do much to improve the present low tone of the subordinate grades.

"The number of animals impounded shows a considerable increase but is not excessive.

"With regard to the proposed depôt at Surat, referred to in Mr. Wallinger's 69th paragraph, the undersigned was less anxious to see it established when it appeared by working out the figures that it would be impossible to supply firewood through it to the city of Surat so cheap as by private agency. As pointed out however by Mr. Wallinger, it would be a most valuable basis of operations for the forest timber trade and on this ground alone it is a pity that the Military authorities have raised exaggerated objections. Perhaps the matter may yet be reconsidered.

"With reference to the Divisional Officer's paragraph 76 there seems to have been some misunderstanding. The intention of the Collector is and always has been that the Forest Department as owner of toddy trees within their limits should levy a rent of one rupee per tree provided the lessee was a cultivator of the land or a licensed toddy retailer. The charges under the A'bkāri Act would still remain to be collected. This arrangement is in accordance with the law and, in fact, is the only one practicable.

"The revenue returns are satisfactory, and on the whole the forest administration of the district has been successful."

(4). Mr. Cumine, Political Agent, Khāndesh, remarks on the Administration Report of the Surat Division :—

"The part of it that concerns me is the part about the Dāngs. I have not yet been in the Dāngs at all. But from what Mr. Wallinger says it is evident that if the Dāng forests are to be conserved at all, more money must be spent on them. It is true that Mr. Wallinger on his part has, with the little money he had, done his best for us in the way of buildings and roads, though of course no real road could possibly be constructed, 16 miles in length, for Rs. 823. But I was not thinking of roads and buildings, nor of the money at Mr. Wallinger's command. I was thinking of increased establishment, of better paid establishment, of better protection from fire and cattle. If practically the whole area of Dāng forest is burnt over every year, as Mr. Wallinger says, and if forest fires really destroy seedlings to the extent that they are supposed to do, then the total destruction of the Dāng forests is only a question of time and not a very long time unless Government spend more money to try and prevent it. I cannot agree possibly because I do not know the Dāngs—with what Mr. Wallinger says as to the good that would result to the Dāng people and the community generally from withdrawing most of the privileges at present allowed to the people. But with this exception all that Mr. Wallinger says about the Dāngs is to be received with consideration as coming from one who has evidently devoted a deal of time and attention to that little-known country."

(5). Remarks on the Administration Report of the Panch Mahāls Division :—

"If the forests of the Panch Mahāls are not to be worked for many years to come, it is not understood why the Working Plans Officer should be hurried up here. Mr. Fisher says

this officer will be able to have his plans cut and dry, but it is just possible they may become unduly dried before they can be brought into operation with any advantage to the district.

"No doubt the demand for wood is steadily increasing; but judging from what he has seen of the jungles of the neighbouring States and the forest growth on waste lands in this district, it will, the undersigned thinks, be many a long year before the reserved forests of the Panch Maháls are called upon to supply the wants of the timber trade. In the meantime there seems no necessity to expose more Europeans to the climate which Mr. Fisher not unjustly describes as 'deadly.'

"Mr. Fisher suffered much in health and could not get on with the demarcation work satisfactorily. He should have had the services of a native assistant.

"Little information of any value or importance can be gathered from the comparative statement of forest offences, and the Collector doubts the explanations which Mr. Fisher gallantly attempts. The same remark applies to forest fires. The forest administration here has not as yet reached such a state of perfection as to render comparisons of this kind instructive.

"The grazing rules are, strictly speaking, not applicable to the Panch Maháls forests which are not yet being worked. One-third of the whole area is supposed to be closed and on the maps the closures look perfect enough; but in practice these closures have resulted in little or no benefit to the forests and inconsiderable annoyance to the people whose cattle have been freely impounded in places. The fact of the matter is the Panch Maháls forests (for the most part) do not suffer in the least from being open to grazing, and little or no difference is observable between the condition of the closed and that of the unclosed tracts. More than four times the number of buffaloes and twice the number of cows and bullocks were impounded this year, while the number of impounded goats—the real mischief workers—only slightly increased. The amount of discontent caused throughout the country-side can be gauged by a consideration of these figures, while the advantage to the forests can be aptly represented by the figure 0.

"Government in the Public Works Department have pronounced most positively and emphatically against the use of barbed wire (*vide* Resolution No. 195 C. W.—802, Public Works Department, of 29th May 1893), but the Forest Department here uses no other and Mr. Fisher, not without reason, strongly upholds its use. Goats have little regard for wire of any other sort.

"Into the technical part of Mr. Fisher's report it is not for the Collector to go, but he notes that, as usual miscellaneous items of land revenue tend to swell the nominal forest income.

"The financial results show the large surplus of Rs. 31,255-10-6, due chiefly to an important sale effected by the Deputy Conservator while on tour in this district.

"Mr. Fisher was as usual devoted to duty and has proved himself an able, energetic, and observant Forest officer. Although in common with all the European officers he suffered severely in health, he managed to make an extensive tour, and his keen interest in his duties and zeal for the good of his Department continued unabated throughout the year.

"The Collector viewed his transfer from this district with regret."

122. Mr. Dasái records the following memorandum of his tour of inspection:—

"It having been brought to my notice that better prices would be obtained at the annual sales of timber and other forest produce if they were confirmed on the dates advertised for receiving tenders and holding auctions, I went early in August to Thána and to Surat in September for the purpose of being on the spot to accept the most desirable offers.

"(2). I commenced my cold weather tour on the 5th November and went to Thána to be present at a meeting called at the instance of the Collector to discuss the working of the orders recently issued by Government regarding the disposal of reserved trees in varkas lands.

"(3). Leaving Thána on the 12th, I marched through a part of the Kalyán Range inspecting timber and cultural operations and reached Murbád on the 26th. At this camp I met Mr. Greathead, Divisional Forest Officer, East Thána, with whom some coupes in the neighbourhood were visited, as well as general questions of forest administration pertaining to his division were discussed. Mr. Duxbury, Assistant Conservator of Forests, a new recruit from Cooper's Hill, reported himself for duty on the evening of the 29th, and taking him with me I passed rapidly through the Shahápur and Khardi Rañgès, inspecting the forests and depôts met with on the way and reached Kására on the Thal Ghát on the 8th December.

"(4). From the 10th to the 16th my camp was in the Mokháda Range. The office and heavy baggage were sent to Surya Mal by road *via* Khardi and Párali, when I reached this place after visiting Vehigaum, Khodalla, Koshimshet and Mokháda. A more careful inspection of the forests in this Range than I was able to make last season has convinced me that the Thána Working Plan is inapplicable to them and will have to be modified.

Until there are greater facilities for export, it must be altered to suit local conditions. During this visit I also satisfied myself that the proposal to construct a road from Mor-khadak in the Mokháda Petha to Trimbak in the Násik Collectorate will not benefit the forests at all as the line which it is to take will not tap any of the forests. An application, purporting to come from occupants, having roused my suspicions that it was not made in good faith, I took the opportunity of being on the spot to impress on the Revenue and Forest subordinates the necessity of keeping a sharp watch on the felling of reserved trees in varkas lands as I presume it is not the intention of Government that not over-scrupulous contractors on the Násik border should take undue advantage of their bounty to the rayats and enrich themselves at the expense of the State.

"(5). Camp moved to Váda on the 18th to Manor on the 20th, and reached Pálghar Station on the B. B. & C. I. Railway on the 22nd December.

"(6). After the Christmas vacation the office opened at Godhra in the Panch Maháls District, to which place it had gone by Railway in the meanwhile, and I marched through the forests of this Range and reached Jhálad on the 15th January. Here the Mahálkari brought to my notice that the sale depôt was inconveniently situated, and in his company I selected another site which is within municipal limits and consequently is more easy of access to the people than the old one, which is half a mile outside of the town. Camp moved to Gultora on the 19th where Mr. Fisher, Divisional Forest Officer, joined me. On the 23rd, ordering the camp to march to Himala in Dohad Táluka, I went to Limbdi to see the Collector of the Panch Maháls, Dr. J. Pollen, to discuss the forest business of the Collectorate and especially to come to an understanding in the matter of the disposal of teak trees in the inám lands of Khotada, Khamda, and Salya, in which Government is a co-sharer. The controversy had been of long standing and was intricate owing to the inámdárs having mortgaged their share to an influential Bohora in Godhra, and it was proposed that the Government share should also be sold to him for Rs. 20,000. On my advising the Collector that this price should not be accepted as I considered it inadequate, he left me to settle the matter at my discretion. Immediately on reaching Dohad, therefore, I called the inámdárs concerned and the mortgagee before me. The latter naturally held out as long as he could to his first offer of Rs. 20,000, but as I was quite confident that the Government share was at least worth Rs. 35,000, I stood firm and ultimately succeeded in getting him to agree to pay that price.

"(7). After seeing this business through, Mr. Fisher conducted me over the firewood felling operations which were in progress in the vicinity of Dohad in connection with the construction of the Godhra-Rutlain Railway, and as we were going to separate, he was seized with a persistent attack of fever. The Civil Surgeon having advised immediate change, I attached the Divisional Office to my own and allowed Mr. Fisher to proceed on a month's privilege leave to Bombay. With the two offices I then passed through the Kálol and Hálol Tálukas, reaching Kim in the Surat Division on the 27th February.

"(8). Unfortunately, at the very next camp, Usked, on my way to Mándvi, I myself was prostrated by influenza, and as the attack did not appear to be a mild one, I went into Surat on the 9th March and was under medical treatment till the 16th March. Leaving Surat in a native boat on the following day I travelled by sea to Wagrech, arriving at this depôt on the 19th.

"(9). After the Easter vacation the office opened at Balsár and on the 28th I assisted the Divisional Forest Officer at the auction sale of the Dáng timber stored at the Wagrech depôt. Mr. Wallinger accompanied me back to Balsár and stayed with me the two following days for the purpose of conferring on the Dáng timber operations, the establishment of a nursery at Lilápur and other forest questions affecting his Division.

"(10). A relapse of the influenza having come on, I was not able to leave Balsár till the 12th March, on which date I received a letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor that Mr. Wroughton had been appointed to the Northern Circle and would relieve me on return from furlough. Consequently I had to give up my intention of passing a fortnight in the Dáangs and to keep along the railway line in the Umbargaon and Dáhánu Ranges, so as to reach head-quarters on or about the date of his expected arrival."

123. I took over charge of the Circle from Mr. Dasái on the 27th April at Bándra, and the office from that date remained at head-quarters. The offices of the East and West Thána, Working Plans, and Surat Divisions were, however, inspected in the interval before the close of the year.

124. It will be seen that each of the Collectors recognizes the good work done by the Divisional officer whose work has come under his notice. Mr. Dasái wishes special mention to be made of the good work done by Messrs. Millett and Wallinger,

125. All the extra Assistants are reported to have worked well. Mr. Phadke however, has suffered considerably from fever, thus detracting from his efficiency.

126. During the year 3 Range Forest Officers retired from Government service on pension earned by long periods of approved service, *viz.* :—

Shekh Abas Shekh Alli Potrik, Ranger, Rs. 100, after 30 years' service, at the age of 60.

Wallabhram Mulji Bhat, Ranger, Rs. 80, on completing 30 years' service.

Bholanath Ranchordas, invalided after 27 years' service.

127. On the whole the Range Forest Officers have worked well during the year : the following are specially mentioned in the Divisional reports :—

1. Hasan Alli Mahomed Alli.
2. Mancharji Byramji.
3. Shekh Ahmed Nur Mahomed.
4. Sadashiv Pandurang Limaye.
5. Hari Anant Bhadbhade.
6. Ganesh Ramchandra Samant.
7. Shekh Usman Shekh Idrus.

128. In addition to the 2 men convicted of penal offences as mentioned in paragraphs 70 and 71, 15 Forest guards were dismissed during the year ; the reasons assigned being overstaying leave and general misconduct.

129. The Divisional office establishments are also reported to have worked well as has that of the Deputy Conservator under Mr. Shivram Bhikaji Rangnekar.

130. The mortality amongst the guards was rather heavier than last year. Twenty men are reported as having died in Thána and the Panch Maháls, of whom 3 died of cholera and 1 of snake-bite in East Thána, and 1 in East Thána and 7 each in West Thána and the Panch Maháls of fever. No deaths are reported from the Surat Division.

R. C. WROUGHTON,
Deputy Conservator of Forests, N. C.

Bándra, 12th October 1894.